

## VISION 2020 FISCAL RESOURCES TASK GROUP

Meeting Minutes 12/18/14  
Senior Center Ground Floor

ATTENDEES: Gordon Jamieson (Co-Chair), David Garbarino (Co-Chair), Town Manager Adam Chapdelaine, Brian Hasbrouck, Juli Brazile, Scott Lever, Ted Peluso, Pete Howard (Secretary)

FINANCIAL REORGANIZATION: Our invited guest for the evening, Town Manager Adam Chapdelaine provided copies of the relevant information including prior to the meeting; including DoR report, 2012 recommendation, supporting presentation, and draft proposed legislation.

At the meeting, Adam and the group reviewed the recent history of financial consolidation efforts. Study by the FRTG in the 1990s. Study by BoS committee in early 2000s. Study performed by the state DoR. Study and recommendation by a stakeholders group, lead by Adam, in 2012 and a resulting article in the 2013 ATM warrant to which both FinCom and BoS recommended no action and Town Meeting so voted.

Adam noted that he felt that the Town would probably not be ready to readdress this issue until the current treasurer retires. Yet he believes that the Town would be best served if this position were appointed using the standard professional hiring process.

Concerning the recent replacement of the Director of Assessments, Adam reported that candidates were reviewed by an open committee as recommended by the 2012 report. But from the FRTG's perspective this was still insufficient to avoid a messy process. Adam believes this position should also be appointed, using a professional hiring process, by the Manager.

Concerning the independent financial offices, Adam is of the opinion that there is no truth to the checks and balances argument. The group noted that under the present system at least 3 serious financial errors had been made in the last few years as detailed in the DoR report. He supports the long-term objective of having a consolidated finance department with cross training and visibility. He believes this approach would produce a team less likely to make such errors. Such an organization would be more efficient and less expensive. As an example, Adam described the use of MUNIS software by all departments except Treasurer leading to duplicative data entry and extra software maintenance costs.

The FRTG thanked Adam for his time. By consensus, the FRTG will not continue this work this year.

NEXT MEETING: Jan 15 - Meetings held monthly - 3rd Thursdays 7:30 PM - Senior Ctr Ground Floor